Deputy Chief Minister condemns Labor’s anti-jobs stance

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Deputy Chief Minister Peter Styles has condemned Territory Labor for its anti-job stance which is costing Territorians their livelihoods and sending a message internationally that investment in the Territory is too high a risk to take.

Minister Styles put the motion to Parliament this morning which has been debated throughout this afternoon.

“It was important to have this debate because this is an issue that is critical to Territorians’ jobs now and in the future,” Mr Styles said.

“The Opposition Leader is continuing to prove he is failing Territorians on key issues and his bumbling is already inflicting real pain on Territory families.

“We have already seen around 200 jobs lost and thousands will follow due to his ill-informed, industry-wrecking ban on onshore gas.

“This is all because he says he wants to review the science that has already been reviewed.

“Yet during his response today, he was eerily silent about his proposed ban and this review he’s going to undertake.

“Labor’s ‘if in doubt have a review’ policy threatens to bring business, investment, job creation and the Territory economy in general to a stand-still if it wins the next election.

“The Opposition Leader has announced more reviews than policies and what policies he has announced are mostly replicas of what this government is already doing.

“He stood up and tabled these so-called policies in Parliament today but he was left red-faced when the Member for Drysdale held up his jobs plan and compared it to the Country Liberals Government’s Economic Plan - Labor’s key focuses were practically lifted word-for-word.

“Aside from his lack of original policy, Michael Gunner’s response to this serious motion was to sling insults at the Country Liberals Government by calling us dogs.

“He then went on to attack a senior public servant with accusations of corruption in the issuing of water licenses.
“The Opposition Leader stood up in the Parliament and sprouted that Labor is a positive opposition and would be a positive government.

“I suggest Territorians will see today's display as an example of the type of positivity Mr Gunner would employ if he was ever to be Chief Minister of the Northern Territory.”

Mr Styles said Deputy Opposition Leader Lynne Walker continued in the same manner by also calling the government dogs.

“The Deputy Opposition Leader herself referred to this debate as an important one,” Mr Styles said.

“Yet instead of using it as an opportunity to talk about what Labor would do to generate jobs and bolster the economy she instead took cheap shots at the government.

“I think the most important thing Territorians can take away from today’s debate is Labor and the Opposition Leader have no plan to ensure the future of Territorians.

“If they’re elected, they will hold endless reviews, stifle investment, stall business and cost Territorians their jobs.

“The Country Liberals Government is delivering on its plan to develop a diverse, prosperous economy, confident culture, strong society and balanced environment.”

Debate will continue tomorrow.

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